IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a fine dispersion of a poorly soluble drug~~, characterized by~~ comprising the steps of: suspending [[a]] said poorly soluble drug in a liquid containing no deflocculant to obtain a suspension; introducing [[the]] said suspension into a high-pressure homogenizer to subject the same to high-pressure treatment to obtain a dispersion; and adding a deflocculant to [[the]] said dispersion to deagglomerate aggregated particles contained therein.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein [[the]] said deflocculant is a synthetic polymer or a natural polysaccharide.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 2, wherein [[the]] said synthetic polymer is a natural polysaccharide derivative, a vinyl polymer derivative or a copolymer of polyalkylene glycol.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein [[the]] said poorly soluble drug is a synthetic antibacterial agent, antifungal agent, antirheumatic agent, anti-inflammatory agent or gastrointestinal agent.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein [[the]] said poorly soluble drug is a synthetic antibacterial agent, antirheumatic agent or antifungal agent.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 4 ~~to 5~~, wherein [[the]] said antifungal agent is a triazole antifungal agent or a polyene antifungal agent.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein [[the]] said poorly soluble drug is a synthetic antibacterial agent.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein [[the]] said poorly soluble drug is 1-cyclopropyl-8-methyl-7-[5-methyl-6-(methylamino)-3-pyridinyl]-4-oxo-1,4-dihydro-3-quinolinecarboxylic acid, itraconazole, amphotericin B, griseofulvin or iguratimod.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein [[the]] said poorly soluble drug is iguratimod.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein [[the]] said poorly soluble drug is 1-cyclopropyl-8-methyl-7-[5-methyl-6-(methylamino)-3-pyridinyl]-4-oxo-1,4-dihydro-3-quinolinecarboxylic acid.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to 7~~, wherein [[the]] said poorly soluble drug is a drug having a solubility in water at 20°C of lower than 0.1 mg/mL.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A fine dispersion of a poorly soluble drug obtainable by the process according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to 11~~.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The fine dispersion of a poorly soluble drug according to Claim 12, characterized in that 90% by volume or more of particles in [[the]] said fine dispersion is less than 1000 nm in particle diameter.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The fine dispersion of a poorly soluble drug according to Claim 12, characterized in that 90% by volume or more of particles in [[the]] said fine dispersion is less than 500 nm in particle diameter.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A medicinal preparation comprising a poorly soluble drug in a form of fine particles, which is obtainable by the process according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 1 ~~to 11~~.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A fine dispersion of iguratimod, characterized in that 90% by volume or more of particles in [[the]] said fine dispersion is less than 1000 nm in particle diameter.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A fine dispersion of 1-cyclopropyl-8-methyl-7-[5-methyl-6-(methylamino)-3-pyridinyl]-4-oxo-1,4-dihydro-3-quinolinecarboxylic acid, characterized in that 90% by volume or more of particles in [[the]] said fine dispersion is less than 1000 nm in particle diameter.